

Message Text

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ANCONSUL JERSUALEM 1153
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USIA

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 7279

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SOPN, SY
SUBJ: SYRIAN MEDIA NOV 27 STRESSES SYRIA REJECTS MEETINGS
WITH SADAT REGIME

1. REPORTS OF SADAT'S PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEECH
CARRIED BY SYRIAN PRESS NOV 27 GIVE
HIGHLY DISTORTED PICTURE. BAATH HEADLINE
SUMMARIZES SYRIAN VIEW: "SADAT ATTACKS SYRIA, DISPARAGES
PALESTINIANS AND PRAISES ISRAEL: SYRIA REJECTS SADAT'S
INVITATION TO MEET IN CAIRO AND CONSIDERS IT A RUSE TO
DISGUISE BEGIN'S VISIT TO EGYPT." PAPER QUOTED HIGH
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LEVEL SYRIAN OFFICIAL AS SOURCE FOR SYRIA'S
"CATEGORICAL REJECTION" OF CAIOR MEETING. SADAT TRIED
TO JUSTIFY HIS JERUSALEM TRIP AND TO FLATTER
EGYPTIAN ARMY, ACCORDING TO BAATH. THIS CAME IN RESPONSE
TO REBELLION OF A NUMBER OF ARMY UNITS AGAINST SADAT'S
VISIT WHICH LED TO ARRESTS AND DISMISSALS.

2. SYRIAN PRESS PIQUED AT SADAT CALIM THAT SYRIA REFUSED TO GIVE EGYPTIAN ARMY SPARE PARTS. AFTER REFUTING THIS CLAIM, PRESS MAKES INDIRECT ATTACK ON IRAQ SAYING THAT SADAT THANKED IRAQ FOR ITS ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT AND MENTIONED THAT IRAQ'S ATTACKS ON SADAT'S VISIT WERE NOT AIMED AT EGYPT BUT AT SYRIA. PRESS NOTES THAT ATTEMPTS ARE STILL GOING ON TO CONVINCE IRAQ TO ATTEND NEXT THURSDAY'S TRIPOLI SUMMIT WHICH THUS FAR INCLUDES ALGERIA, LIBYA, SYRIA, PDRY, AND THE PLO.

3. FEATURED EDITORIAL OF DAY, READ IN FULL AS RADIO'S POLITICAL COMMENTARY, WAS TISHRIIN'S ENTITLED: "NO MORE MEETINGS WITH SADAT'S REGIME." EDITORIAL COAIMED: "SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL WHICH WAS ARRANGED BY THE US WILL NOT ONLY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE ME SITUATION BUT ALSO ON WORLD DETENTE. THE US PLAN TO REMOVE EGYPT FROM ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT AND TO USE SADAT'S REGIME AS IMPERIALIST PAWN IN AFRICA AGAINST NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WILL AFFECT THE BALANCE OF DETENTE AND WILL SERIOUSLY INCREASE INTERNATIONAL CLASHES IN AFRICA AND THE ME." PURPOSE OF US PLAN IS TO CONTROL ARAB RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY OIL. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT SYRIA CANNOT MEET WITH A REGIME WHICH HAS SOLD OUT THE ARAB CAUSE AND HAS BEEN CO-OPTED BY IMPERIALISM. UNCLASSIFIED

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4. AL-BAATH EDITORIAL COMPLAINS ABOUT RAPID PACE OF RECENT EVENTS AND CONCLUDES THAT SADAT COULD NOT BE OPERATING ON SPUR OF THE MOMENT. "WE WONDER, IS IT POSSIBLE THAT A PROBLEM EXISTING FOR THIRTY YEARS AND WHICH RESULTED IN FOUR WARS AND ALMOST IN A THIRD WORLD WAGKAN BE SOLVED IN FIFTEEN DAYS?" SCENARIO, AL-BAATH CLAIMS, MUST HAVE BEEN PREPARED IN ADVANCE BY US WITH AIM OF FULL ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN RECONCILIATION.

5. IN FOOTNOTE TO EDITORIAL'S ACCUSATION OF US COMPLICITY TISHRIIN POINTS OUT THAT USG RECOGNIZED ISOLATION WHICH ENGULFED SADAT REGIME IN WAKE OF HIS JERUSALEM VISIT AND THUS, STARTED TO EXERT GREAT PRESSURE IN SOME ARAB CAPITALS TO FORCE THEM TO DECLARE THEIR SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S STEP OR, AT LEAST, TO CONTRIBUTE TO ARAB EFFORTS TO RESIST THE CONSPIRACY. PAPER CLAIMS THAT US EFFORTS ARE NOT MEETING WITH GREAT SUCCESS. MURPHY

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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